May 16, 2021 Mental Health Sunday

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude: “**Blessed Assurance” – piano solo – Cindy Bradley

**Call to Worship**

Leader: We are together today because Christ has claimed us. We are called to be the Body of Christ in today’s world.

**People: Who are we to make such a claim? Who would see Jesus Christ when they look at us?**

Leader: It is not our claim that brings us together. The church is not our private club.

**People: We are not here just for ourselves, for our own needs. We are drawn together by a larger purpose.**

Leader: We have been called by Christ for a mission. The gathered community is sent out into the world.

**People: We are here to be equipped for ministry. We have been chosen as apostles of good news.**

**Hymn:** “We Are One In Christ” #27 Sing! – David Perample

**Invocation**

**ALL: Watch over us, holy God, as we take time to pray and to meditate on the continuing impact of Easter on our lives. Jesus Christ has become for us the measure of life. He represents to us your gift of love and eternal life. We are a resurrection people no longer bound by fear of death but freed to become witnesses to the light. Nourish us to become like trees, planted beside streams of water, that flourish and bear much fruit because of your constant attention and abundant provision for our needs. Be known to us here in this hour. Amen.**

**Psalm Reading Psalm 1**

(Reading Preface: Psalm 1 is not an easy sell in the ambiguous, gray-area world in which we find ourselves, a place where right and wrong have often become a matter of opinion. This first psalm is the first psalm precisely because it wants to announce in no uncertain terms how persons of faith are to navigate life’s choppy waters. Happiness and blessedness are the direct result of choosing rightly the places to walk, stand, and sit, and the persons to whom to listen. The “advice of the wicked,” the path of the sinners, and the seat of “scoffers” must not be given attention if true happiness is to be gained. But, of course, in our contentious religious landscape, just who is the wicked, sinner, and scoffer may be the rub. Some people find these words pointed and powerful; to others they make no sense at all.)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; 2 but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; 6 for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

(Reading Preface: It is believed that the author of the Gospel of Luke also wrote the Book of Acts. One early peculiarity we notice is within this passage, when a new disciple is chosen for the loss of Judas, the two who were up for the position apparently were with the original twelve disciples since the baptism of Jesus, yet Luke does not mention either one by name until now. We don’t know anything about these two – Justus and Matthias, all we know is that a roll of the dice calls them into the inner circle.)

15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, 16 "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- 17 for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."… 21 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." 23 So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. 24 Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen 25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." 26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**Special Music:  “Piano Meditation” - Ravel – Ryn Jorgensen**

**Reflection Guided in Prayer**

**Reflection Reading John 17:6-19**

6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Offertory**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**ALL: Here, O God, is some of the abundance you have allowed us to manage for you while we are on this earth. May it be enough to draw us closer to you and to all whom we seek to help. May our hearts follow our treasure into growing devotion to your truth and expanded commitment to the unity in love that Jesus sought for all your children. Bless this offering, and increase our joy in giving. Amen.**

**Hymn: “**Blest Be the Tie that Binds” #438 HC – David Perample

**Benediction**

Pastor: You have been chosen as disciples and apostles. Your task is to learn and proclaim God’s Word.

**People: We are learning from the life of Jesus. We are seeking to live in ways Jesus taught.**

Pastor: You do not belong to the world but to God. You are in the world as bearers of God’s truth.

**People: We find delight in the discovery of God’s law. May it be a part of us, day and night.**

Pastor: God’s love is our guardian and protection. God gives us eternal life in Christ Jesus.

**People: God, who knows our hearts, accepts us. The love of God follows us wherever we go. Let us go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Postlude:**"Cornerstone”